



The First 100 Days of the Obama Administration



"I think we're off to a good start. But it's just a start. I'm proud of what we've achieved, but I'm not content,...We still confront threats ranging from terrorism to nuclear proliferation as well as pandemic flu. And all this means you can expect an unrelenting, unyielding effort from this administration to strengthen our prosperity and our security — in the second hundred days, and the third hundred days, and all the days after that..."

- **President Obama on First 100 Days in Office**

[First 100 Days Blog](#)

[Obama Marks His First 100 Days](#)

[State Department 100 Day Report](#)

E-journal on **[U.S. Presidential Transitions](#)**

See also our **[e-spotlite](#)** on the first 100 days

[Barack Obama: 44th President of the United States](#) (*biographical publication*)

[One Hundred Days of Progress](#). *Website of the Speaker of the House*. 29 April 2009.

[First 100 days](#). *The Guardian (UK)* – multimedia, including day-by-day interactive timeline. See also the *Guardian* **[Photo Gallery](#)** of the first 100 days.

Articles:

[The First 100 Days](#). *Public Policy Research*. Dec. 2008 – Feb. 2009.

[Obama's Future Agenda](#) by William A. Galston. *The Brookings Institute*. 27 April 2009.

[The Obama Effect](#). *The Economist*. 02 April 2009.

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ECONOMICS, FINANCE & TRADE

Tax Responses to the Global Economic Crisis. *Deloitte*. Web posted March 29, 2009.

Countries worldwide are taking steps to counter the effects of the global financial and economic crisis. The report provides a high level summary of responses, through tax and fiscal policies, of more than 50 countries worldwide to tackle the crisis. The focus is on implemented corporate, individual income, and indirect tax measures, other types of fiscal measures and corporate governance, and proposed and deferred measures. [**ARTICLE 301**](#)

Policies to Bring Us out of the Financial Crisis and Recession Speech by Donald L. Kohn, vice chairman, U.S. Federal Reserve, April 3, 2009.

The Federal Reserve's Balance Sheet Speech by Ben S. Bernanke, chairman, U.S. Federal Reserve, April 3, 2009.

Primer: The Financial Stability Plan by Lee Hudson Teslik. *CFR*. March 24, 2009.

The plan includes programs from an array of government agencies using taxpayer funds to create incentives that will jumpstart lending and other economic activity. [**ARTICLE 302**](#)

Audaciously Hopeful: How President Obama Can Help Restore the Pro-Trade Consensus by Daniel Ikenson and Scott Lincicome. *Cato Institute*. April 28, 2009.

The authors show how restoring the pro-trade consensus must be a priority of the Obama administration. If the United States indulges misplaced fears, restrains economic freedoms, and attempts to retreat from the global economy, the country will suffer slower economic growth and have greater difficulty facing future economic and foreign policy challenges. [**ARTICLE 303**](#)

Bank Nationalization: a Survival Manual by Douglas J. Elliott. *Brookings Institution*. April 2009.

Prominent voices call for the nationalization of the weakest major U.S. banks, although advocates of that step are still in a distinct minority. The author sees it only as a last resort measure. [**ARTICLE 304**](#)

Global Financial Stability Report: Responding to the Financial Crisis and Measuring Systemic Risks. *International Monetary Fund*. April 2009.

The report assesses key risks facing the global financial system with a view to identifying those that represent systemic vulnerabilities. In the current crisis, the report traces the sources and channels of financial distress, and provides policy advice on mitigating its effects on economic activity, stemming contagion, and mending the global financial system. [ARTICLE 305](#)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

Bank Shots: How the Financial System Can Isolate Rogues by Rachel L. Loeffler. *Foreign Affairs*. March-April 2009.

According to Loeffler, former deputy director of global affairs at the U.S. Treasury Department, the U.S. government has effectively used financial sanctions carried out by global banks to apply pressure to North Korea and Iran. "Given the role that banks, rather than governments, now play as agents of international isolation," Loeffler says, "policymakers must develop a more sophisticated and accurate understanding of what this new tool of statecraft can and cannot do." [ARTICLE 306](#)

Improving Capacity for Stabilization and Reconstruction Operations. RAND Corporation. Nora Bensahel et al. April 3, 2009.

Recent stabilization and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq have underlined the need for the United States to shift the burden of these operations away from the Defense Department and onto other government agencies better suited to the work, according to the study. The State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development, the agencies best suited for this type of work, are not set up for large-scale, rapid deployment, leaving the bulk of the work in the hands of the Defense Department, whose main mission is war fighting. [ARTICLE 307](#)

Diplomacy, faith and freedom. *The Economist*. April 2, 2009.

On March 31st the Obama administration did something very concrete to correct any impression that diplomatic lobbying for liberty was too big a luxury in a world with other woes on its mind. In a bid to redeem a body which skeptics had called irredeemable, it announced its intention to seek one of the 47 seats on the United Nations Human Rights Council. [ARTICLE 308](#)

EAST ASIA & PACIFIC

How Obama can get South Asia Right by C. Raja Mohan. *The Washington Quarterly*. April 2009.

One of the major contributions of Obama's presidential campaign during 2007–08 was his political success in shifting the focus of the U.S. foreign policy debate from Iraq and toward Afghanistan. The reversal of fortunes in the two major wars that President G.W. Bush had embarked upon during his tenure helped Obama to navigate the foreign policy doldrums that normally sink campaigns of Democratic candidates. [ARTICLE 309](#)

Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2008. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. April 21, 2009.

With fewer children being born and people living longer, the population of the Asia-Pacific region is steadily growing older, so much so, that since 2000, the region's annual population growth has fallen to 1.1 per cent, the lowest rate among the world's developing regions. The Yearbook is the leading compilation of statistical data which provides a detailed picture of the major economic, social and environmental trends over the past two decades. [ARTICLE 310](#)

Pensions Systems for the Informal Sector in Asia ed. Landis MacKellar. *World Bank*. March 2009.

The paper looks at the experiences of various Asian countries in expanding the coverage of the pension system to informal sector workers. The paper argues that a rapid forward-looking response from governments in the region is necessary to provide protection against the risk of poverty in old age. [ARTICLE 311](#)

US-NZ Relationship Moves from Strength to Strength

U.S.-New Zealand Arrangement for Cooperation on Nonproliferation. U.S. Dept. of State. April 07, 2009

Remarks by Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton and New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully following the Signing Ceremony for the U.S.-New Zealand Arrangement For Cooperation on Nonproliferation Assistance

GOVERNMENT, POLITICS & LEGAL ISSUES

Fraud Cases Fell While Pentagon Contracts Surged by Nick Schwellenbach. *Center for Public Integrity*. April 1, 2009.

The number of defense contracting fraud and corruption cases sent by government investigators to prosecutors dropped precipitously under the Bush administration, even as contracting by the Defense Department almost doubled, according to the report. **ARTICLE 312**

Reining in the Imperial Presidency: Lessons and Recommendations Relating to the Presidency of George W. Bush. *House Committee on the Judiciary Majority Staff*. April 2, 2009.

The report contains 50 separate recommendations designed to correct the imbalanced separation of power that characterized the George W. Bush presidency. Recommendations include continued congressional investigations, a blue ribbon commission, and independent criminal probes to be conducted by federal prosecutors. **ARTICLE 313**

The Internet's Role in Campaign 2008 by Aaron Smith. *Pew Internet & American Life Project*. April 15, 2009.

74% of internet users, 55% of the adult population, went online in 2008 to get involved in the political process or to get news and information about the election. This marks the first time that a Pew Internet & American Life Project survey has found that more than half of the voting-age population used the internet to get involved in the political process during an election year. **ARTICLE 314**

Release of the President and Vice President's Tax Returns. The White House. April 15, 2009.

As demonstration of the President's commitment to openness and transparency, the White House issued the following releases making the President and Vice President's tax returns public. **ARTICLE 315**

Release of Declassified Narrative Describing the Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel's Opinions on the CIA's Detention and Interrogation Program. *U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence*. April 22, 2009.

The Senate Intelligence Committee released a document describing the early approval of the CIA interrogation program by the Bush Administration, and the preparation of the Office of Legal Counsel opinions that gave legal approval for the use of specific interrogation techniques. The Committee, under then-Chairman Jay Rockefeller's leadership, has been working with the Bush and Obama Administrations since August 2008 to have this document declassified. **ARTICLE 316**

Improve Tax Fairness and Help the Developing World by Angel Gria. *OECD*. April 24, 2009.

Governments and financial centers around the world have come forward with pledges to open up bank records to foreign tax investigators. The message could not be clearer: aiding tax evasion is no longer acceptable. With aid budgets under pressure and trade volumes weakening amid the global economic crisis, governments are looking to tax systems as a new frontier for development policies. **ARTICLE 317**

The Budgetary Implications of NASA's Current Plans for Space Exploration. *Congressional Budget Office*. April 2009.

According to NASA, its current plans will require an average of \$19.1 billion of funding annually from 2010 through 2025. The agency also intends to conduct 79 new robotic science missions through 2025, requiring funding of \$4.7 billion annually, and to perform aeronautics research, at a cost of about \$460 million annually. **ARTICLE 318**

DEFENSE / SECURITY

A New Strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan White House, March 27, 2009.
There is a 6-page **white paper** on the new policy.

President Obama's Afghanistan-Pakistan (AFPAK) Strategy Briefing by U.S. National Security Adviser Gen. James Jones at the Foreign Press Center, U.S. Dept of State, March 27, 2009.

Toward Reconciliation in Afghanistan by Michael O'Hanlon. *Washington Quarterly*, April 2009.

The U.S. is committed to Afghanistan and over 2009 will roughly double its troop strength there. The international community is also seriously committed, with a number of key countries such as Canada, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom fighting hard and applying solid principles of counterinsurgency. **ARTICLE 319**

Iraq: Key Issues for Congressional Oversight. U.S. Government Accountability Office. Mar 2009.

Before signing the security agreement with Iraq, the prior administration had linked the drawdown of U.S. forces to the achievement of security, political, economic, and diplomatic conditions. Meeting these conditions would enable the United States to achieve its strategic goal for Iraq: a unified, democratic, and federal Iraq that could govern, defend, and sustain itself and become an ally in the war on terror. **ARTICLE 320**

Afghanistan's National Security Forces by Greg Bruno. *Council on Foreign Relations*. April 2009.

The growth and continued improvement of Afghanistan's domestic security forces is seen as key to an eventual U.S. exit, but some analysts caution that progress will remain strained. **ARTICLE 321**

Military Power of the People's Republic of China 2009. U.S. Dept of Defense. March 26, 2009.

China's rapid rise as a regional political and economic power with growing global influence has significant implications for the Asia-Pacific region and the world, says the report. The United States welcomes the rise of a stable, peaceful, and prosperous China, and encourages China to participate responsibly in world affairs by taking on a greater share of the burden for the stability, resilience, and growth of the international system. **ARTICLE 322**

Hearing on Religious Extremism in Pakistan. *Council on Foreign Relations*. March 17, 2009.

Chair Felice Gaer's opening comments describe the subject of the hearing: "the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom will examine the threat that religious extremism poses to security, human rights, and religious freedom in Pakistan... The Commission has been concerned about a rising threat of religious extremism that promotes violence in Pakistan and South Asia..." **ARTICLE 323**

Missile Defense and NATO Security by Pepino A. DeBiaso. *Joint Force Quarterly*. Autumn 2008.

DeBiaso, Director of the Office of Missile Defense Policy at the U.S. Department of Defense, discusses the use of a missile defense system to provide security to NATO. **ARTICLE 324**

Americans See Newer Threats On Par With Ongoing Conflicts – Gallup Poll

Americans are now about as concerned about Iran's and North Korea's nuclear capabilities and drug violence in Mexico as they are about the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, and international terrorism in general.

From Counterforce to Minimal Deterrence by Hans M. Kristensen et al. *Federation of American Scientists & The Natural Resources Defense Council*. April 2009.

The report calls for changes to U.S. nuclear war planning. It seeks to abandon the central mission for U.S. nuclear forces, which has been "counterforce," the capability for U.S. forces to destroy an enemy's military forces, weapons, command and control facilities and key leaders. **ARTICLE 325**

Afghanistan: Key Issues for Congressional Oversight. U.S. Government Accountability Office. April 21, 2009.

Although progress has occurred in areas such as economic growth, infrastructure development, and training of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), the overall security situation in Afghanistan has not improved after more than 7 years of U.S. and international efforts. The new administration plans to deploy approximately 21,000 additional troops to Afghanistan this year, and has completed a strategic review of U.S. efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan. **e-Supplement** **ARTICLE 326**

New NATO Members: Security Consumers or Producers? By Joel R. Hillison. *Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army College*. April 22, 2009.

An analysis of the burden-sharing behavior of NATO's 1999 wave of new members reveals that new NATO members have demonstrated the willingness to contribute to NATO missions, but are often constrained by their limited capabilities. However, new member contributions to NATO have improved and, in comparison to older NATO members, the new members are doing quite well. [ARTICLE 327](#)

Gaza's Unfinished Business. *International Crisis Group*. April 23, 2009.

The Israel-Hamas war has ended but none of the factors that triggered it have been addressed. Three months after unilateral ceasefires, Gaza's crossings are largely shut, reconstruction and rehabilitation have yet to begin and Palestinians are deeply divided. The status quo is unsustainable, and Gaza once again is an explosion waiting to happen, says the author. [ARTICLE 328](#)

Sharia and Militancy by Toni Johnson. *Council on Foreign Relations*. April 22, 2009.

Experts say Islamic law, or sharia, holds wide appeal for Muslim populations in many countries and is beginning to spread via democratic means, but it is also being used as a tool of Islamic militancy and extremism. [ARTICLE 329](#)

Under the Cover of War: Hamas and Political Violence in Gaza. *Human Rights Watch*. April 2009.

The study documents a pattern since late December 2008 of arbitrary arrests and detentions, torture, maiming, by shooting, and extrajudicial executions by alleged members of Hamas security forces. The report is based on interviews with victims and witnesses in Gaza and case reports by Palestinian human rights groups. [ARTICLE 330](#)

ENERGY

Annual Energy Outlook 2009. *Energy Information Administration (EIA)*. March 2009.

The Outlook presents projections and analysis of U.S. energy supply, demand, and prices through 2030. The projections are based on results from the EIA's National Energy Modeling System. The Outlook includes the reference case, additional cases examining energy markets, and complete documentation. [ARTICLE 331](#)

The Energy Learning Curve: Coming from Different Starting Points, the Public Sees Similar Solutions. *Public Agenda*. April 3, 2009.

The study finds the American people reaching common ground on at least 10 major energy proposals, particularly on alternative energy. But the public may not yet be prepared for the tradeoffs and challenges needed to make these proposals a reality. Despite consensus on certain solutions, misconceptions and lack of knowledge hinder informed judgment. [ARTICLE 332](#)

The Oil Boom in the GCC Countries, 2002-2008: Old Challenges, Changing Dynamics by Ibrahim Saif. *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*, March 2009.

High oil price levels between 2002 and the autumn of 2008 strengthened the key macroeconomic indicators in the six GCC countries: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, SA, and the UAE. Estimated at an annual average of U.S. \$327 billion over the period 2002-2006, the revenues more than doubled their average as compared with the preceding five years. [Summary](#) [ARTICLE 333](#)

Energy Cost Index 2009: Ranking the States by Raymond J. Keating. *Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council*. April 7, 2009.

The study ranks the 50 states and the District of Columbia according to key energy costs affecting business. It looks at two major energy costs affecting small businesses, individuals and families: 1) the price of regular gasoline at the pump, and 2) the cost of electricity. [ARTICLE 334](#)

The Impact of Ethanol Use on Food Prices and Greenhouse-Gas Emissions. Congressional Budget Office. April 2009.

Over the past several years, the use of ethanol as a motor fuel in the United States has grown at an annual average rate of nearly 25 percent. U.S. consumption of ethanol last year exceeded 9 billion gallons—a record high. The paper discusses the relationship between ethanol, greenhouse-gas emissions, food prices, and federal spending on nutrition programs. [**ARTICLE 335**](#)

Building a Sustainable Energy Future. National Science Foundation. April 10, 2009.

This is a draft report for public review and comments. The fundamental transformation of the current extractive U.S. fossil fuel energy economy to a sustainable energy economy is a critical grand challenge facing the U.S., says the report. The report makes a number of recommendations to the U.S. Government. [**ARTICLE 336**](#)

Energy Efficiency: The First Fuel

Increasing the efficient use of existing energy supplies is widely acknowledged as the fastest, cheapest, and cleanest way to meet future energy needs.

A Nuclear Hybrid by John Fahey. *Forbes*. April 13, 2009.

Country Analysis Briefs: Kuwait. *Energy Information Administration*. April 2009.

Despite its relatively small size, Kuwait is one of the world's top exporters of oil, with over 2.6 million barrels per day exported in 2007. Kuwait's economy is heavily dependent on [**oil export revenues**](#) which account for roughly 90 percent of total export earnings. [**ARTICLE 337**](#)

ENVIRONMENT

An Assessment of Environmental Regulation of the Steel Industry in China. *Alliance for American Manufacturing*. March 2009.

With China now among the world's leading polluters, a real climate change solution cannot be achieved unless the Administration and Congress hold China accountable for its environmental practices. The report provides a detailed examination of the flaws in China's pollution-control regime and the damage it is doing to human health. [**ARTICLE 338**](#)

Arctic Melt: Reopening a Naval Frontier by Rear Admiral David Gove. *U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings*. February 2009.

Rear Admiral David Gove, formerly the Navy's 19th oceanographer, writes that accelerating environmental changes in the Arctic pose security challenges for strategic planners. As ice melts in that region, it may open up the area to shorter commercial shipping routes, larger commercial fishing opportunities and wider access to gas and oil deposits, as well as potential mineral resources on the seabed if they can be extracted successfully. [**ARTICLE 339**](#)

Climate Change: Observations on Federal Efforts to Adapt to a Changing Climate by John Stephenson. *Testimony, U.S. Government Accountability Office*. March 25, 2009.

Changes in the climate attributable to increased concentrations of greenhouse gases may have significant environmental and economic impacts in the United States. Federal, state, and local agencies are tasked with a wide array of responsibilities that will be affected by a changing climate. [**ARTICLE 340**](#)

How CBO Estimates the Costs of Reducing Greenhouse-Gas Emissions. *Congressional Budget Office*. April 24, 2009.

In recent years, a number of legislative proposals have involved efforts to restrict emissions of greenhouse gases in the United States. The background paper briefly describes the methodology that CBO uses to estimate those incremental costs. [**ARTICLE 341**](#)

Flexibility in the Timing of Emission Reductions Under a Cap-and-Trade Program by Douglas W. Elmendorf. Testimony, *Congressional Budget Office*. March 26, 2009.

Elmendorf argues that the most cost-effective way to spur significant changes in the production and use of energy is to put a price on carbon emissions. By establishing such a price the government would encourage households and firms to reduce emissions in the least costly ways. Either a carbon tax or a cap-and-trade program would effectively put a price on carbon emissions and lead to emission reductions where and how it was least costly to achieve them.

ARTICLE 342

Antarctic Treaty Nations Tackle Tourism, Protect Native Species by Cheryl Pellerin. *America.gov*. 21 April 2009.

Native Antarctic animal and plant species will be better protected and the number of tourists to the planet's southernmost continent will be limited after a two-week meeting in Baltimore of representatives from 28 nations that have ratified the 50-year-old Antarctic Treaty.

ARTICLE 343

The NOAA Annual Greenhouse Gas Index (AGGI) by David J. Hofmann. *National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration*. April 22, 2009.

Two of the most important climate change gases increased last year, according to a preliminary analysis, which tracks data from 60 sites around the world. Researchers measured an additional 16.2 billion tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂), a byproduct of fossil fuel burning, and 12.2 million tons of methane in the atmosphere at the end of December 2008. This increase is despite the global economic downturn, with its decrease in a wide range of activities that depend on fossil fuel use.

ARTICLE 344

SOCIAL WELFARE

Child Well-Being and Sole-Parent Family Structure in the OECD: an Analysis by Simon Chapple. *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development*. March 23, 2009.

The paper addresses the causal impact of being raised in a sole parent family on child well-being across the OECD. The question is answered by a cross-OECD meta-analysis and a literature review.

ARTICLE 345

International Evidence on the Social Context of Well-Being by John F. Helliwell et al. *National Bureau of Economic Research*. February 2009.

The paper uses the first three waves of the Gallup World Poll to investigate differences across countries, cultures and regions in the factors linked to life satisfaction, paying special attention to the social context. It finds that answers to the satisfaction with life are consistent in what constitutes a good life.

ARTICLE 346

20th Century U.S. Generations. *Population Reference Bureau*. Elwood Carlson. March 2009.

The myriad decisions people make throughout lives, affect not only individual lives, but public policy and business practices as well. Governments formulate laws and policies about child and health care and Social Security based on the life choices they expect people to make.

ARTICLE 347

At the Brink: Trends in America's Uninsured. *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*. March 22, 2009.

With Congress and the Obama administration discussing how to reform the nation's health care system, the report looks at what has happened since the last significant reform effort ended in 1994 without any comprehensive congressional action. The analysis documents the situation since then.

ARTICLE 348

Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Victims of Crime by Erika Harrell. *Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice*. March 2009.

The report shows findings about violent crime and property crime experienced by the Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander population in the United States. Comparisons are made using the victimization experiences of other racial and ethnic groups.

ARTICLE 349

A New Minimum Benefit for Low Lifetime Earners. *Urban Institute*. March 2009.

Despite working hard and playing by the rules, many workers end up poor in retirement. The report proposes an enhanced minimum benefit for Social Security that targets long-career workers with low lifetime earnings along with a modest credit that compensates workers for up to three years out of the labor market. [ARTICLE 350](#)

A Portrait of Unauthorized Immigrants in the United States by Jeffery S. Passel and D'Vera Cohn. *Pew Research Center*. April 14, 2009.

Unauthorized immigrants living in the United States are more geographically dispersed than in the past and are more likely than either U.S.-born residents or legal immigrants to live in a household with a spouse and children. In addition, a growing share of the children of unauthorized immigrant parents, 73%, were born in this country and are U.S. citizens. [ARTICLE 351](#)

World Hunger Series: Hunger and Markets. *World Food Programme*. April 2009.

The report explores the complex and multifaceted interactions between the availability of and access to food and the operation of markets. Markets are critical in averting or mitigating food shortages and hunger by adjusting to shocks, reducing vulnerability and coping with crises. Whether markets help or harm the hungry poor is a function of market institutions, infrastructure and policies. [ARTICLE 352](#)

HEALTH & EDUCATION

2009 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures. *Alzheimer's Association*. March 2009.

Total healthcare costs are more than three times higher for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias than for other people age 65 and older, according to the study. Total healthcare costs are calculated as per person payments measured from all sources. [ARTICLE 353](#)

Initial Evaluation of the Cities Readiness Initiative by Henry H. Willis et al. *RAND Corporation*. March 2009.

A federal program designed to help metropolitan public health agencies prepare to deliver essential medicines to the public after a large-scale bioterror attack or natural disease outbreak has succeeded in improving the level of readiness, according to the study. [ARTICLE 354](#)

The Costs of Inaction: the Urgent Need for Health Reform. *U.S. Department of Health and Human Reform*. March 2009.

Americans across the country are demanding comprehensive health reform and cannot afford to wait any longer, according to the study. Those Americans fortunate enough to have health insurance often don't get the quality care they need and deserve. The study highlights the flaws in the health care system and demonstrates the cost of maintaining the status quo. [ARTICLE 355](#)

Financial and Health Burdens of Chronic Conditions Grow by Ha T. Tu and Genna R. Cohen. *Center for Studying Health System Change*. April 2009.

Almost 72 million working-age Americans live with chronic conditions, such as diabetes, asthma or depression. For the more than 20 million chronically ill adults with medical bill problems in 2007, 25% went without needed medical care, half put off care and more than half went without a prescription because of cost concerns. [ARTICLE 366](#)

Health Economics Program by Michael Grossman. *NBER*.

The NBER's Program in Health Economics focuses on the determinants of health. Two areas of particular interest are the economics of obesity and the economics of substance use. [ARTICLE 367](#)

The Costs of Methamphetamine Use: a National Estimate. *RAND Corporation*. April 16, 2009.

The economic cost of methamphetamine use reached more than an estimated \$23.4 billion in 2005 — the true economic burden is somewhere between \$16.2 billion and \$48.3 billion. Most of the expense results from the intangible burden that addiction places on dependent users and their premature mortality and from crime and criminal justice costs. [ARTICLE 368](#)

The Challenges of Establishing World-Class Universities by Jamil Salmi. *World Bank*. March 2009.

The highest-ranked universities are the ones that make significant contributions to the advancement of knowledge. There is no universal recipe or magic formula for “making” a world class university, says the report. [**ARTICLE 369**](#)

Short Sighted: How America’s Lack of Attention to International Education studies Impedes Improvement. *Alliance for Excellent Education*. March 2009.

To future generations, Americans’ current educational myopia is likely to appear, at best, a negligent failure to anticipate and meet the needs of the nation and its citizens, says the report. To provide students with a world-class education, the U.S. must adopt a more global outlook. [**ARTICLE 370**](#)

TRANSPORTATION

Driven by Dollars: What States Should Know When Considering Public-Private Partnerships to Fund Transportation. *Pew Center on the States*. March 24, 2009.

With an annual funding gap of \$47 billion between the roadway projects the nation needs and those it can afford, states with large deficits and an urgent need to fix aging infrastructure are looking closely at public-private partnerships, a financing approach used in other countries for years but only recently adopted in the United States. [**ARTICLE 371**](#)

Reinventing Transit: American Communities Finding Smarter, Cleaner, Transportation Solutions. *Environmental Defense Fund*. April 22, 2009.

A new generation of innovative public transit is sweeping through communities across America. Rural areas, suburbs and cities are leading the way to a cutting-edge transportation system. Investing in smart transit pays off, says the report. [**ARTICLE 372**](#)

TECHNOLOGY / TELECOMMUNICATIONS

2008 Internet Crime Report. Bureau of Justice Assistance, *U.S. Department of Justice*. March 2009.

The Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) reports on the number of Internet crime complaints received in 2008. A total of 275,284 complaints were received in 2008, up from 206,884 (33 percent) over 2007. Total dollar loss reported in 2008 was \$265 million, up from \$239 million in 2007. The average individual loss was \$931. [**ARTICLE 373**](#)

The Newspaper Revitalization Act. Sen. Benjamin Cardin, *U.S. House of Reps.* March 24, 2009.

The act would allow newspapers to operate as non-profits under 501(c)(3) status for educational purpose. Under this arrangement, newspapers would not be allowed to make political endorsements, but would be allowed to freely report on all issues, including political campaigns. The measure is targeted to preserve local newspapers serving communities and not large newspaper conglomerates. [**ARTICLE 374**](#)

The Mobile Difference. *Pew Internet & American Life Project*. March 26, 2009.

Some 39% of Americans have positive and improving attitudes about their mobile communication devices, which in turn draws them further into engagement with digital resources, on both wireless and wire line platforms, according to the study. Mobile connectivity is now a powerful differentiator among technology users. [**ARTICLE 375**](#)

Man-Made Catastrophes Hit UD \$7 Billion in 2008 by Guy Carpenter. March 29, 2009.

Man-made and technological catastrophes caused around USD7 billion in insured losses last year. This put 2008 losses around 46 percent higher than the annual average of USD4.8 billion, according to the data. [**ARTICLE 378**](#)

Freedom on the Net: a Global Assessment of Internet and Digital Media. *Freedom House*. April 1, 2009.

As internet and mobile phone use explodes worldwide, governments are adopting new means for controlling these

technologies that go beyond technical filtering. The report looks at these emerging tactics, raising concern over trends such as the "outsourcing of censorship" to private companies, the use of surveillance and the manipulation of online conversations by undercover agents.

ARTICLE 379

Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2009. Hearing before the *U.S. House Committee on Science and Technology*, April 1, 2009.

Wired Less: Disconnected in Urban America. *Internet for Everyone*. April 7, 2009.

With the Federal Communications Commission set to begin work on a national broadband strategy, this report calls attention to the urban digital divide. "Many....urban residents can't afford broadband access or, just like their rural counterparts, live in areas that have been redlined by Internet service providers that refuse to offer service." said Megan Tady, author of the report.

ARTICLE 380

The Carbon Footprint of Email SPAM. McAfee. April 15, 2009.

Until now, spam's impact has been measured in time, money, and aggravation. It turns out there is a massive environmental impact as well. Experts find that the energy consumed in transmitting and deleting spam is equivalent to the electricity used in 2.4 million American homes, with greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions equivalent to 3.1 million passenger cars.

ARTICLE 381

Social Software and National Security: an Initial Net Assessment by Mark Drapeau and Linton Wells II. *National Defense University*. April 2009.

Social software is appearing in increasingly diverse forms as part of a broad movement commonly called Web 2.0. Social software can be used by governments for content creation, external collaboration, community building, and other applications. Governments that harness its potential power can interact better with citizens and anticipate emerging issues.

ARTICLE 382

JOURNALISM & MEDIA

IPI World Press Freedom Review 2008: Focus on Asia. International Press Institute. 2009.

The annual review examines the state of the media around the world, documenting press freedom violations and major media developments. Divided into specific regions, each report provides a comprehensive overview of the year's events and may be contrasted with the events of previous years.

What we Learned in the Meltdown by Martha M. Hamilton. *Columbia Journalism Review*. January/February 2009.

The author assesses why journalists failed to see the global economic crisis coming. She finds that some reporters warned of problems in the housing market and of unregulated over-the-counter derivatives markets as early as 1998, but were largely ignored.

ARTICLE 383

Hearing on "A New Age for Newspapers: Diversity of Voices, Competition and the Internet". *Free Press*. April 21, 2009.

Free Press Policy Director Ben Scott calls for a national journalism strategy to address the problems in the newspaper industry and promote a vibrant news marketplace at a hearing before the House Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Policy.

ARTICLE 384

Attacks on the Press in 2008. *Committee to Protect Journalists*. February 24, 2009.

According to Carl Bernstein, Committee to Protect Journalists, the greatest threats to freedom of the press are more insidious than a generation ago because they are intended to induce a climate of fear and self-censorship through systematic violence and emblematic arrest aimed at those who practice independent journalism.

ARTICLE 385

Freedom of the Press Committee Report by Larry Martz. *Overseas Press Club of America*. April 2, 2009.

Since the February 24 board meeting, the committee has written letters of protest to the governments of Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Iran, Afghanistan, Swaziland, Cuba, Congo, North Korea, China, and Russia.

ARTICLE 386

Journalists in the Firing Line. World Press Freedom Day, *World Assoc. of Newspapers*. April 2009.

Facing harassment, threats of violence and physical retaliation, journalists across the world continue to dig out troubling facts, challenge the status quo and expose those who commit crimes. Day after day, journalists investigate and file reports on issues they know they could be sued or killed for. Many pay the price. On World Press Freedom Day, the World Association of Newspapers will present the story of many journalists whose work upsets and can sometimes undo the powerful. What do they report on, how and at what price? [ARTICLE 387](#)

Press Freedom Day by Day. Reporters Without Borders. April 2009.

In some countries a journalist can be thrown in prison for years for a single offending word or photo. Jailing or killing a journalist removes a vital witness to events and threatens the right of us all to be informed. [ARTICLE 388](#)

Soft Censorship: How Governments Around the World Use Money to Manipulate the Media by Don Podesta. Center for International Media Assistance. January 2009.

The report examines the use of money by governments to influence news coverage. The author, Don Podesta, a veteran journalist with more than 30 years' experience, explains that as formerly authoritarian regimes have moved toward more democratic societies, this form of censorship has emerged on a global scale. [ARTICLE 389](#)

World Press Freedom Day 2009: Media, Dialogue and Mutual Understanding. U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. April 2009.

The potential of media in fostering dialogue, mutual understanding and reconciliation was the topic of UNESCO World Press Freedom Day 2009, celebrated on 2-3 May 2009. As the only UN agency with a mandate to defend freedom of expression and press freedom, UNESCO has placed mutual understanding, and dialogue through media at the core of its mission. [ARTICLE 390](#)

ARTS & CULTURE

Economic Crisis is Having Catastrophic Effects on the Arts and Music. Committee on Education & Labor, *U.S. House of Representatives*. March 26, 2009.

Communities across the country are suffering as arts and music organizations struggle with declining budgets, job losses and other effects of the economic crisis, witnesses told the House Education and Labor Committee. "Arts and music organizations are facing tough realities, which has a multiplier effect on workers and communities who rely on these sectors to create jobs and generate local revenue," said U.S. Rep. George Miller (D-CA), chairman of the committee. "These are industries that can help breathe new life into communities, towns and cities, spur economic growth and help us build a stronger America." [ARTICLE 391](#)

Philanthropy Annual: 2008 Review. Foundation Center. Web posted March 26, 2009.

The annual includes interviews with leaders in the field, commentary by respected thinkers, and key statistics on foundation giving. [ARTICLE 392](#)

The Geography of Buzz: Art, Culture and the Social Milieu in Los Angeles and New York by Elizabeth Currid and Sarah Williams. Norman Lear Center. April 7, 2009.

Social scientists have long sought to understand the cultural production system. The authors use a unique data set, Getty Images, and geo-coded over 6,000 events and 300,000 photographic images taken in Los Angeles and New York City. They combined GIS and spatial statistics to analyze these macro geographical patterns and concluded: 1) Social milieus have nonrandom spatial clustering 2) These clustering tendencies may reinforce themselves 3) Event enclaves demonstrate homogeneous spatial patterns across all cultural industries 4) The recursive nature of place-branding may partially explain resulting cultural hubs and 5) The media also clusters. [ARTICLE 393](#)

LABOR & EMPLOYMENT

Foreign-Born Workers: Labor Force Characteristics in 2008. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *U.S. Department of Labor*. March 26, 2009.

The tables compare the labor force characteristics of the foreign born with those of their native-born counterparts. The foreign born are persons who reside in the U.S but who were born outside the country or one of its outlying areas to parents who were not U.S. citizens. The foreign born include legally-admitted immigrants, refugees, temporary residents such as students and temporary workers, and undocumented immigrants. [**ARTICLE 394**](#)

Remarks by the President on the American Automotive Industry. *White House.* March 2009.

The President remarks on the state of the American automotive industry and the plans on restructuring and modernizing of it. [**ARTICLE 395**](#)

A Chartbook of International Labor Comparisons. U.S. Department of Labor. March 27, 2009.

The chart book focuses on the labor market situation in selected countries for the most recent year available; some charts also show trends. [**ARTICLE 396**](#)

The Social Economic Importance of Full Employment. The Levy Economics Institute of Bard College. April 2009.

According to the report, if jobs can be provided to the unemployed, inequality and poverty will be reduced, although such policy will not directly address the problem of excessive income at the top of the distribution. President Roosevelt's New Deal jobs programs, such as the Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps, are good examples of such targeted job-creating programs. [**ARTICLE 397**](#)

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture and Climate Change: an Agenda for Negotiation in Copenhagen by Gerald C. Nelson. *International Food Policy Research Institute.* March 2009.

The first in a series of briefs prepared to support the goal of putting agriculture on the agenda of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations in Copenhagen in December 2009. Agriculture provides a living for more than half of the world's poorest people. The ongoing negotiations to address climate change provide a unique opportunity to combine low-cost mitigation and essential adaptation outcomes with poverty reduction. [**ARTICLE 398**](#)

The 2008/2009 World Economic Crisis: What it Means for U.S. Agriculture by Mathew Shane et al. Economic Research Service, *U.S. Department of Agriculture.* March 30, 2009.

The world economic crisis has major consequences for U.S. agriculture. The weakening of global demand results in reduced export demand and lower agricultural commodity prices, compared with those in 2008. So far, the overall impact on U.S. agriculture is not as severe as on the broader U.S. economy because the record-high agricultural exports, prices, and farm income in 2007 and 2008 put U.S. farmers on solid financial ground. [**ARTICLE 399**](#)

Solving the Mystery of the Vanishing Bees by Diana Cox-Foster and Dennis vanEngelsdorp. *Scientific American.* March 2009.

The ailment called colony collapse disorder has wiped out large numbers of bees. Millions of beehives worldwide have emptied out as honeybees disappear, putting at risk nearly 100 crops that require pollination. The causes turn out to be surprisingly complex but solutions are emerging. [**ARTICLE 400**](#)

Failure to Yield: Evaluating the Performance of Genetically Engineered Crops by Doug Gurian-Sherman. Union of Concerned Scientists. April 2009.

For years the biotechnology industry has trumpeted that it will feed the world, promising that its genetically engineered crops will produce higher yields. According to the report, despite 20 years of research and 13 years of commercialization, genetic engineering has failed to significantly increase U.S. crop yields. [**ARTICLE 401**](#)